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House Bill 367 Packed with Education Provisions Before Being Sent to Governor

House Bill 367 was originally introduced as an education bill aimed at preventing opioid abuse, but ended up as a grab-bag collection of education provisions that the legislature wanted to get passed before the end of the year in “lame duck” legislative session. The House concurred with the Senate-passed version of the bill on December 17, 2014. The bill now goes to the Governor for his signature. Below is a summary of major provisions:

Third Grade Reading Guarantee Assessments

- For the 2014-2015 school year, requires school districts and schools to administer the Ohio Achievement Assessment for English language arts to all third grade students in the spring.
- Removes the September 30 deadline by which the language and reading skills portion of the diagnostic assessment must be administered to students in kindergarten through third grade.

World History

- Requires one-half unit of instruction in the study of world history and civilizations in the high school social studies curriculum; prohibits an end-of-course examination in world history.

State Assessments

- Phases out the current required physical science end-of-course examination so that students entering the ninth grade for the first time between July 1, 2014, and July 1, 2015, take either the physical science or biology examination, and students entering the ninth grade for the first time on or after July 1, 2015, take the biology end-of-course examination.
- Requires the State Superintendent and Chancellor of the Board of Regents to select multiple assessments, instead of a single



assessment, from which school districts and schools may choose one to administer to their students.

- Requires that the college and career readiness assessment be administered to all eleventh grade students in the spring.
- Permits school districts or schools that utilize an integrated approach to mathematics instruction to replace the required Algebra I end-of-course examination for an integrated mathematics end-of-course examination and to replace the required geometry end-of-course examination for an integrated mathematics II end-of-course examination.
- Specifies that student scores on state assessments for the 2014-2015 school year be sent to districts and schools by November 15, 2015, instead of within 60 days of administration or June 15, as under current law.

College Credit Plus/Early College High School/Dual Enrollment Programs

- Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, requires final course grades, rather than substitute examinations, to be used in lieu of end-of-course examinations in specified subjects for students enrolled in courses under the College Credit Plus (CCP) Program or an Early College High School (ECHS) Program.
- Specifies for the 2014-2015 school year, depending on the former dual enrollment programs in which students are enrolled, which students are required to take substitute examinations and which must use final course grades in lieu of specified end-of-course examinations.
- Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, to adopt guidelines for calculating the minimum final course grades for CCP and ECHS courses, as well as specified former dual enrollment courses that demonstrate the level of academic achievement necessary to earn a high school diploma.

OGT Phase Out

- The bill changes language dealing with deadlines regarding the administration of OGT practice tests and the phase-out of such tests as OGT's are replaced with the new College and Work Ready Assessments.
 - First, the bill states that a school district or school with a three-year average graduation rate (for students who graduate in four years) of less than 75% administer the practice OGT to all ninth grade students who entered ninth grade prior to July 1, 2014. Current law does not include an end date for the administration of such practice assessments.
 - Second, the bill changes from a date certain (July 1, 2015) to a date specified by the State Board of Education as the end date of the administration of the OGT and practice assessments to students who have fulfilled the curriculum requirements to graduate, but have not passed one or more parts of the OGT.



Attendance Reporting

- Removes a provision in the current school funding formula stating that a student's enrollment ceases when the student has 105 continuous hours of unexcused absences.
- Specifies that a student in any of grades 9-12 is considered a full-time equivalent student if the student is enrolled in at least five units of instruction per school year.

Teach for America Licenses

- Requires each participant in the Teach for America Program who is assigned to teach in Ohio to remain an active member of the TFA support program, for the duration of the program, in order to continue to possess a resident educator license.
- Requires the State Board of Education to revoke a participant's resident educator license, if that participant resigns or is dismissed from the program prior to completion.

Provision of Diabetes Care to Students by Nurses Employed by Educational Service Centers

- Permits the board of education of a city, exempted village, or local school district to contract with an educational service center (ESC) for the purpose of a school nurse, a registered nurse, or a licensed practical nurse who is employed by the ESC providing diabetes care to students in the district in accordance with current law.

Opioid Abuse Prevention Education

- Requires each school district to include instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention in the district's health curriculum.
- Requires the Governor's Cabinet Opiate Action Team to develop recommendations for instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention and submit the recommendations to the Department of Education no later than July 1, 2015.

Redistricting Plan to Go Before Voters

A bipartisan plan to change the redistricting process for the state legislature will go before voters next November. On Wednesday, the Ohio House approved Senate revisions to House Joint Resolution 12 by a vote of 81-7, easily reaching the three-fifths majority needed to ask voters to ratify the proposed constitutional amendment.

The measure now goes to the secretary of state, who will schedule an Ohio Ballot Board hearing to draft ballot language and a description of the proposed constitutional



amendment. If approved by voters, the constitutional amendment will create the Ohio Redistricting Commission consisting of the governor, the state auditor, the secretary of state, and four members appointed by majority and minority leaders in the House and Senate. Unlike the current Apportionment Board process, a proposed map would need two minority votes to be approved and remain valid until for ten years. If a map is adopted without sufficient minority support, it remains in effect for only four years, after which the commission would draw new districts for the remainder of the decade. The proposed amendment also adds more specific requirements about how political subdivisions should be split when necessary. It would also require the panel to attempt to draw maps that don't favor either party and that correspond to voters' statewide preferences.

OEA is supportive of HJR 12 and believes this change would be a big improvement over the hyper-partisan, winner-take-all redistricting process in current law. Legislative leaders of both parties are to be commended for coming together to find common ground on this important issue.